

1 MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
2 WORK SESSION  
3 BOROUGH HALL ANNEX  
4 MARCH 13, 2006  
5 7:30pm  
6

7 *A Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen*  
8 *County, New Jersey was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex at 7:30 pm.*  
9

10 ***Council Present*** *Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilpersons Hawkins,*  
11 *Heveran, Raucchi, Ryan, Puzzo*  
12

13 ***Council Absent*** *Councilwoman Mitrani*  
14

15 ***Council Present*** *Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, Brian Giblin Borough*  
16 *Attorney, Victoria Miragliotta, Borough Administrator,*  
17 *Myrna Becker, CFO*  
18

19 Mayor Cherchi called the meeting to order.  
20

21 Mayor Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Council President Puzzo led in the  
22 Pledge of Allegiance.  
23

24 Mayor Cherchi asked for a moment of silence for former Councilwoman Pat  
25 Dougherty.  
26

27 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**  
28

29 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the  
30 Bulletin Board at Borough Hall and notice has been sent to the Official  
31 Newspaper.  
32

33 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
34

35 None  
36

37 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
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- 39 a. **Sump Pump Discharges** – Councilman Ryan brought his concerns to the  
40 Governing Body regarding enforcement of not allowing discharge into  
41 Borough streets. The Borough Administrator suggested there be no  
42 grandfathering any of the current sump pumps. A plan needs to be devised  
43 when the Borough makes street repairs a homeowner who has a sump  
44 pump is told it will cost you “xyz” dollars or you have to construct a  
45 seepage pit. Mayor Cherchi would like the Borough Engineer to tell us  
46 what it would cost to tie into a storm drain. After a discussion by the

Governing Body it was decided to have the Borough Attorney review Ordinances from other municipalities and find ones that require the homeowners to be connected to a seepage pit. The Governing Body would also like cost estimates from the Borough Engineer on how much it would cost to construct seepage pits. This will go to Laws & Ordinances for a draft Ordinance.

- b. **Road Utilities, Street Opening Ordinances** Councilman Ryan presented the Council with a draft ordinance for Street Openings. The Council discussed the draft ordinance. The Borough Administrator explained the genus behind the draft ordinance. The Council disc used the ordinance. This ordinance will be sent to Laws & Ordinances and brought back to the Council for review.

- c. **Leonia Day JIF Coverage** Councilman Ryan would like to know how a group could be brought under the Borough's JIF policy. Councilman Ryan reported that the group that is looking for this coverage is not going to be spending money they are looking to promote the arts in Leonia. After a discussion by the Governing Body it was decided to have representatives of the group make a presentation to at the Meeting of April 10<sup>th</sup>.

- d. **Budget** Councilwoman Heveran reported the budget will be introduced at the meeting of March 20<sup>th</sup> and adopt the budget on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Heveran thanked the Borough Administrator, the CFO, all Department Heads and the Personnel and Finance Committee. Myrna Becker, CFO, reviewed details of the Budget and answered the questions of the Governing Body.

- e. **Abatement Ordinance** - The Borough Administrator explained the suggestions of the Tax Assessor. Councilman Raucci asked the Borough Attorney if there is a way the Assessor can assess a home that is under renovation before it is completed. The Borough Attorney explained he could do a partial assessment before the work is completed and a CO is issued. The Borough Administrator explained that the Assessor suggested to avoid a record keeping angst, the Borough advertise that the abatement is ending and anyone wishing to apply for the abatement should do so by a specific date. After a discussion by the Council all permits issued prior to August 31, 2006 will be included in the abatement program. The Ordinance will be introduced at the meeting of March 20, 2006. Councilman Raucci would like the ability to revisit the Ordinance in the event there is a noticeable drop-off in permits.

- f. **Local Assistance Board** Borough Attorney Giblin reviewed the opinion on the desk.

93 **NEW BUSINESS**

- 94
- 95 a. **Citizens Light Rail Transportation Committee** - Councilwoman
- 96 Heveran asked if the group has met. Councilwoman Heveran asked for an
- 97 update. Councilwoman Heveran will send a memo to the Committee and
- 98 ask for an update from the Committee. Councilman Hawkins questioned
- 99 the decision by NJ Transit to put a train station on Station Parkway?
- 100 Mayor Cherchi referred to a presentation made to the Planning Board
- 101 regarding the station. A discussion was held by the Governing Body
- 102 regarding the role of the committee.
- 103
- 104 b. **Zoning Official** – Councilwoman Heveran asked the Borough
- 105 Administrator regarding the date for the position of Acting Zoning
- 106 Official. The Borough Administrator stated in her notes, March 20 was the
- 107 date proposed for appointment. Councilwoman Heveran requested this be
- 108 put on under closed session for discussion. The Borough Administrator
- 109 also noted the salary will be discussed at the meeting which the Zoning
- 110 Official is appointed.
- 111
- 112 c. **Broad Avenue and Fort Lee Road** – Council President Puzzo noted that
- 113 the Engineer will be at the next meeting and she will bring the Governing
- 114 Body up to date at that time
- 115

116

117 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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119 Council President Puzzo noted a flyer from the Leonia High School swim Team,

120 requesting the use of the Triangle for sandwich board for their first fund raiser.

121 The Council concurred and the Borough Administrator will notify them of the

122 approval.

123

124 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

125

126 Barbara Marchant128 Spring Street, Mrs. Marchant inquired when the work on

127 the sewers and repaving would be done on Spring Street? Mayor Cherchi stated

128 this will be discussed at the next meeting with the Borough Engineer. We are

129 going to be looking into financing through the DEP. Mrs. Marchant would like to

130 know approximately when the project will start. Council President Puzzo noted

131 that Spring Street is a priority for the Governing Body.

132

133 A motion was made by Councilperson Puzzo to go into Closed Session, seconded

134 by Councilperson Heveran. All in favor none opposed.

135

136 A motion was made by Councilperson Raucci to adjourn seconded by

137 Councilperson Heveran. All in favor none opposed

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139           There being no further business of the before the Council the meeting was  
140           adjourned at 10:10pm

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142

143           Respectfully submitted,

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145

146           Frances Lehmann

147           Borough Clerk